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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,625	11/06/2001	Goran Brottgardh	128. 822PAT	4684
33369	7590	10/03/2003	EXAMINER	
FASTH LAW OFFICES 629 E. BOCA RATON ROAD PHOENIX, AZ 85022			ALVO, MARC S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1731	

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/991,625	Applicant(s) BROTTGARDH ET AL.	
	Examiner Steve Alvo	Art Unit 1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Copies of SE-C-512753 and SE-C-448009, discussed in the specification, should be sent into the Office so that they can be fully considered by the Examiner.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-13, 15-18 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over SE-C-512753 in view of PERNEBORN (5,498,115).

SE-C-512753 teaches a wash press which distributes pulp via 2 inlets onto drums 2a and 2b using feed screws 4a and 4b running horizontally and transverse to the pulp web being washed and the distributor device is arranged is arranged at the very top of the dewatering drums and the wash zone extends over 270°. PERNEBORN teaches using holes distributed along the generatrix of a screw feeding device housing for pulp, at the lowest part of the screw, allows the even distribution of the pulp along the mat forming drum (column 3, lines 10-11). It would have been obvious that holes distributed along the housing of the feeding screw of SE-C-512753 in the manner taught by PERNEBORN would allow even distribution of the pulp to the drums 2a and 2b. It would have been obvious to size the hole large enough to let the fibers pass through.

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over SE-C-512753 in view of PERNEBORN (5,498,115) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of SE-C-448009 or BERGER or WALLEN or KLAUSEN.

The increasing and decreasing the speed of pulp through a slurry by increasing and decreasing the diameter and pitch of the feed screw is well known in the art as taught by SE-C-

448009 or BERGER or WALLEN or KLAUSEN. It would have been prima facie obvious to increase and decrease the feed of the pulp flow of SE-C-512753 and/or PERNEBORN (5,498,115) by increasing the screw diameter or the thread pitch as taught by SE-C-448009 or BERGER or WALLEN or KLAUSEN.

Claims 11-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11, the term "to form a uniform web" is indefinite. It is not clear if the web is formed on a paper making machine or is it formed as a layer of pulp on a washing press. The pulp appears to be a layer of pulp, not a formed web, e.g. it does not stay in web form after it is removed from the wash press. Clarification is required. Claim 17 is indefinite as the term ± 45 degrees is not clear if this means an arc of 90 degrees, e.g. 45 degrees in one direction and 45 degrees in the other direction.

Claim 14/13/1 would be given **favorable consideration** if amended to include all the limitations of the independent claim and the intervening dependent claim, and if the 35 USC 112 rejections are overcome.

When filing an "**Official**" FAX in Group 1730, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "**Official**" for papers that are to be entered into the file. The "**Official**" FAX phone numbers for this TC 1700 are:

Non-Final Fax: (703) 872-9310 **After-Final FAX:** (703) 872-9311.

When filing an "**Unofficial**" FAX in Group 1730, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "**Unofficial**" for Draft Documents and other Communications with the PTO that are not

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for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers. The
“Unofficial” FAX phone number for this Art Unit (1731) is **(703) 305-7115**.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the **primary examiner** should be directed to **Steve Alvo** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-2048**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from **6:00 AM - 2:30 PM (EST)**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Steve Griffin, can be reached on 703-308-1164.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Group receptionist** whose telephone number is **703-308-0661**.

MSA
5/2/2003



STEVE ALVO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1731